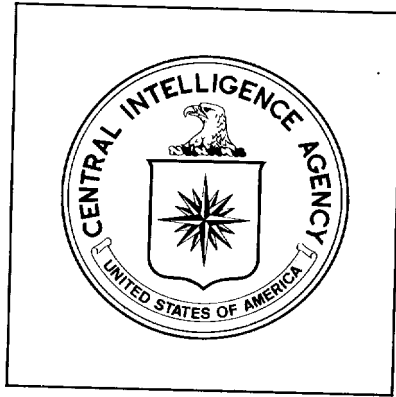


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Soviets Allow Sakharov's Wife To
Go Abroad for Treatment

Soviet authorities on July 18 granted the long-pending request of Yelena Sakharov, wife of prominent dissident physicist Andrey Sakharov, to go to Italy for treatment of an eye condition that is threatening her sight. The decision could be designed to take her case, which has been well publicized in the West, out of the headlines before the European security conference summit convenes in Helsinki.

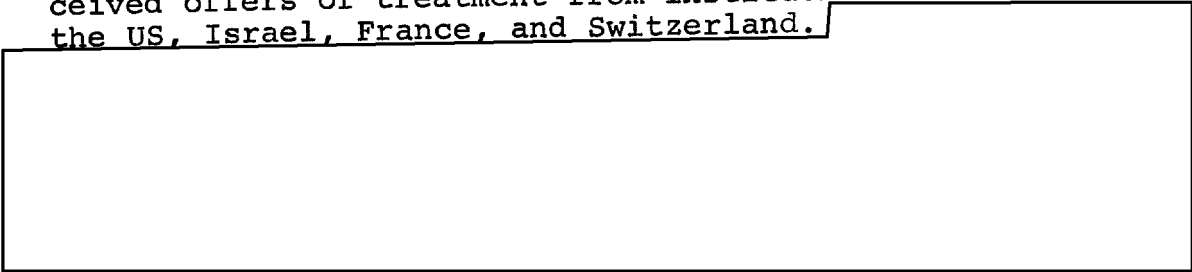
Sakharov, who is the co-founder of the so-called "democratic movement" and an articulate spokesman for other Soviet dissidents and political prisoners, told Western newsmen in Moscow that the regime's decision came just one day after she had been told that the request had been turned down again. Sakharov's wife first applied to go to Italy last March, after repeated medical treatment in the USSR proved unsuccessful. Sakharov and his wife have repeatedly protested the regime's refusals through the medium of the Western press. They even staged a three-day hunger strike in early May to highlight the case.

Sakharov's prestige at home and abroad has helped to shield him from serious reprisals, but he, his family, and his colleagues have been subjected to increasing harassment. He has denounced past refusals to let his wife receive treatment abroad as the most reprehensible form of pressure against him.

Mrs. Sakharov expects to leave for a clinic in Siena, Italy, as soon as possible because, according to Sakharov, her sight is rapidly deteriorating. The Italian press recently reported that

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specialists at Siena are not fully confident that her condition, dating to World War II, can be successfully treated. She has reportedly also received offers of treatment from institutions in the US, Israel, France, and Switzerland.



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Soviet Security Forces Keep Low Profile
During Meeting of Jewish Activists and
US Senators

Soviet security authorities took an unusually lenient approach to the Jewish activists who met recently with the visiting US Senate delegation.

Members of the Jewish group that met with the Senators said they were conscious of being under surveillance, but that they were not harassed either before or after the meeting. Only one of the three activists from other cities who are known to have sought to come to Moscow for the meeting was prevented by local police from going.

The activists believe that this restraint stemmed from awareness that attempts to scuttle or harass the planned meeting could have become a cause celebre in the West, and ultimately rebound to the USSR's political disadvantage. One Jewish source added that while the security forces probably had no illusions about the views of some members of the US delegation on Jewish emigration and related issues, they let the meeting proceed on the assumption that the activists had little new to tell the Senators.

The security forces probably were also aware that differences among the Jewish activists had complicated their planning for the meeting with the US delegation. The regime may have been hoping that at least some of these differences would become apparent during the meeting, and thus demonstrate to the visitors that the Jewish community does not present a wholly united front vis-a-vis the authorities.

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Belgrade Advocates Special UN Session
on Nuclear Arms Race

Foreign Minister Minic told the National Assembly last Friday that Yugoslavia would soon start a campaign to rally Third World support for a special UN General Assembly on disarmament.

Minic roundly condemned the great powers both for expanding the arms race and trying to monopolize nuclear weapons. He specifically criticized the review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, held in Geneva in May, which, he said, showed the nuclear super powers are unprepared to meet their obligations under the treaty. He also indicated that the non-nuclear states are angry because of the failure of the great powers "to honor the terms of the NPT." Minic made no direct reference to the regime's recent review of Yugoslavia's commitment to the treaty, but his effort to take the disarmament issue to the UN reflects Belgrade's disillusionment with the results of the treaty.

The next stage in the Yugoslav campaign will be to contact other members of the nonaligned world as a prelude to bringing the Yugoslav position before the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference in Lima next month.



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